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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/079,997 | 02/19/2002 | Hideaki Maeda | 16869P-042500US | 7044 |

20350 7590 10/04/2004

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| EXAMINER |
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SLAVITT, MITCHELL R

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2651

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/079,997 | MAEDA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Mitchell R Slavitt | 2651 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/19/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:
2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the use of "TA". The words "thermal asperities" should be written out. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
4. Page 7 of the specification describes Figures 2-4 as the conventional art. The actual Figures should therefore be labeled "Prior Art".

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

5. Claims 1-12 are allowed as the prior art does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention. Independent claim 1 teaches a data read method. The distinguishing element of the claim is data in a read-out target sector and a following sector next to the data is read out using an output amplitude control information and a read clock control information of a sector read out previously time-wise to the read-out target sector.

Independent claims 3 and 6 teach a method for an information write /read device and a signal processing circuit, respectively. The distinguishing element of the claims is a timer is started upon termination of control of the read operation for a sector unit; and

Art Unit: 2651

provided that a time period until the start of control of the read operation for a following sector unit is within a predetermined period of the timer, an output amplitude control information and a read clock control information of a preceding sector is held.

Independent claim 4 teaches a method for an information write/read device. The distinguishing element of the claim is instead of using an output amplitude control information and a read clock control information pertaining to a head sector of respective sector group, data reading is performed using a control information immediately preceding the head sector and a control information of a following sector read continuously to the head sector.

Independent claim 5 teaches a signal processing circuit. The distinguishing element of the claim is a signal which halts reading control corresponding to a head part of a following sector; and a function for holding an output amplitude control information and a read clock control information in response to the signal which halts reading control.

Independent claim 7 teaches a signal processing circuit. The distinguishing element of the claim is a second function for reading data continuously when first function is activated, instead of using an output amplitude control information and a read clock control information pertaining to a head sector of respective sector group, using a control information immediately preceding the head sector and a control information of a following sector.

Independent claim 8 teaches a signal processing circuit. The distinguishing elements of the claim are: second function for reading data when first function is

Art Unit: 2651

activated, instead of using an output amplitude control information and a read clock control information pertaining to a head sector of respective sector group; third function for enabling arbitrarily an offset information between the control information immediately preceding the head sector and a control information of a following sector read continuously; and a fourth function for sending the offset information to a read channel.

6. The following prior art of record is not relied upon but is provided because it is deemed relevant to the applicant's invention. Yun teaches a method for controlling a position error signal for performing a servo control regardless of a position error signal detected from a defective servo burst region. The servo control is performed by using the position error signal detected from the servo sector positioned ahead of the defective servo sector.

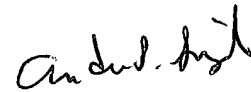
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitchell R. Slavitt whose telephone number is (703) 305-2809. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-4:00), 2nd Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran, can be reached on (703) 305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2651

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MS 46
9/9/04



ANDREW L. SNIEZEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER